715
30

Office Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED
DEC 30 1963
JOHN F. DAVIS, CLERK

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1963

No. 715

WILLIAM M. JACOBS,
PETITIONER,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
RESPONDENT.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

FRANCIS J. MONAHAN
11 Pemberton Sq.
Boston, Mass.
Attorney for Petitioner

Blanchard Printing Company, Boston, Mass. — Law Printers

INDEX

	Page
Opinion Below	1
Jurisdiction	19
Questions Presented	19
Statutes and Rules Involved	21
Statement	21
Reason for Granting Writ	22
Conclusion	24

CITATIONS

Cases

Glasser v. United States, 315 U.S. 60	23
United States v. Socony Vacuum Oil Co., 310 U.S. 150, 247	23

In the
Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1963

No.

WILLIAM M. JACOBS,
PETITIONER,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
RESPONDENT.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

Petitioner, William M. Jacobs, by his attorney prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the Judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, entered November 1, 1963.

Opinions of the Court Below

The opinion of the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, printed in Appendix A. hereto.

Appendix A

United States Court of Appeals
For the First Circuit

No. 6095.

ERNEST REISS,
DEFENDANT, APPELLANT,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
APPELLEE;

No. 6096.

JOADA REALTY CORPORATION,
DEFENDANT, APPELLANT,

v.

SAME;

No. 6097.

WILLIAM M. JACOBS,
DEFENDANT, APPELLANT,

v.

SAME;

No. 6098.

FRED B. DOLE,
DEFENDANT, APPELLANT,

v.

SAME.

APPEALS FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Before WOODBURY, *Chief Judge*, and HARTIGAN and ALDRICH, *Circuit Judges*.

Walter Powers, Jr., with whom *Walter Powers* and *Stephen A. Hopkins* were on brief, for appellants in Nos. 6095 and 6096.

Abraham S. Goldstein, with whom *Francis J. Monahan* and *Barbara A. Black* were on brief, for appellant in No. 6097.

George W. Gold for appellant in No. 6098.

Paul A. M. Hunt, Assistant U. S. Attorney, with whom *W. Arthur Garrity, Jr.*, was on brief, for appellee.

OPINION OF THE COURT:

November 1, 1963.

ALDRICH, *Circuit Judge*. Appellants, Jacobs, Reiss and Dole, were indicted in two counts for conspiracy to defraud the United States, 18 U.S.C.A. § 371, in connection with two Massachusetts highway condemnations affecting the federal fisc, *cf. Harney* v. *United States*, 1 Cir., 1962, 306 F.2d 523, *cert. den.* 371 U.S. 911. Each taking was of a (separate) portion of a lot belonging to Joada Realty Corporation,[1] a fourth appellant. Appellants were acquitted on Count One, but, along with one DeSimone who does not appeal, convicted on Count Two. It will be more convenient to leave to the last a recitation of the evidence.

Reiss complains at the outset of the court's failure to grant a continuance requested because of the hospitalization of his intended real estate expert witness, one Donovan, ten days before trial. It is elemental that on such an issue the burden is the heavy one of showing an abuse of discretion. *Isaacs* v. *United States*, 1895, 159 U.S. 487. The court felt, both before the trial and afterwards, that Reiss had sufficient opportunity to obtain another witness. The record contains nothing affirmatively counter to this conclusion. We attach no weight to counsel's prophecy, when he discovered Donovan was ill, that he would not be able to obtain a replacement. Equally unprobative is the statement in the brief that "it may be

---

[1] Joada Realty Corporation, of which defendant Reiss was the principal officer and a substantial stockholder, admittedly stands or falls with Reiss and will not be separately considered.

assumed, in view of the importance of the testimony, that Reiss and his counsel did all they could to find a sufficiently qualified witness, and that if they found none it must have been because of the limitations of time." A burden is not met by such "assumptions," particularly when there was another inference in fact drawn by the trial court. At the hearing on defendants' motions for new trial the court expressed the opinion that, in the light of the testimony and a view of the locus which the court and jury had taken, the reason no other expert was produced was because no honest expert could testify the way Reiss desired.

This statement of the court points out a further defect in Reiss' position. Whether in addition to having to show an abuse of discretion or as a part of such a showing, an appellant must normally demonstrate a likelihood of prejudice. *Neufield* v. *United States*, D.C. Cir., 1941, 118 F.2d 375, 380, *cert. den.* 315 U.S. 798; *Lockhart* v. *United States*, 6 Cir., 1920, 264 Fed. 14, *cert. den.* 254 U.S. 645; *cf. Heflin* v. *United States*, 5 Cir., 1955, 223 F.2d 371, 375, *rev'd on other grounds, on collateral attack*, 358 U.S. 415, 1959. In the ordinary instance this may be done by an affidavit of the absent witness' expected testimony. This case is unusual in that Reiss' complaint was that he did not have a witness, and, by hypothesis, was in no position to aver. We need not determine just what a disappointed appellant must show in such a situation by way of prejudice. It is enough to hold that he should not, as here, leave a record indicating the reverse.

When Reiss requested the continuance the government stipulated that if he failed to obtain another witness he might have Donovan testify by affidavit. In due course Reiss produced an affidavit from Donovan, but, unaccountably, the opinion expressed therein gave but a single dollar figure for the two takings combined. It is difficult to disagree with the district court that any expert should have

known better, because not only was each taking involved in a separate count of the indictment, but each was independent in time, characteristics and effect. Although advised by the court of the inadmissibility of such testimony, Reiss failed to obtain a further statement. From the fact that Donovan had sufficiently advanced in his studies to give a combined figure for both takings, it is reasonable to infer that his failure to make the separation was not due to lack of preparation, but was because of the unsatisfactory disclosure such a separation would have produced. His subsequent silence, particularly having in mind that an expert who had been working on a matter for months might well be expected to have at least some basis for an opinion by the time the case was about to be reached, strengthened the unfavorable inference. We recognize that expert testimony may produce special problems, but on this record we find no error in the court's concluding that even with a continuance Reiss never would have any witness, Donovan included, who could help him on the second count.

Reiss' next contention, that the verdicts on Counts One and Two were fatally inconsistent, was more than adequately answered by the further remarks of the district court in denying the motion for new trial. We will not repeat them.

All defendants object to the court's using the terms "dishonest methods" in defining fraud to the jury, claiming that, through ambiguity or otherwise, the charge was too broad. Each defendant was represented by competent counsel who had both ears and eyes to measure the charge's meaning and effect.[2] Not one voiced any objection. We may well assume that if there was an ambiguous overstate-

[2] Following a practice we have previously approved, the court gave copies of the charge to counsel before delivering it, and thereafter gave the jury the transcript.

ment if was a meaning so hidden that the jury, too, would not discover it. *United States* v. *Kahaner*, 2 Cir., 1963, 317 F.2d 459, 478-79, *cert. den.* 10 L.d 63. Alternatively, if defendants are correct, it was a ruling that could have been curtailed to fit the exact circumstances of the case without doing violence to any principle. This is peculiarly a situation where a party owes a duty to the court to make known his position.[3]

We will mention briefly defendants' claim that the assistant United States attorney was guilty of prejudicial misconduct in asking two questions of a witness Poster which improperly suggested an illegal payoff. This claim, too, is too late. The court sustained a general objection to the government's questions, without stating its grounds. The defendants did not ask for a mistrial, or that the jury be instructed forthwith to disregard any inference the questions may have suggested. They argue that they did ask, at the conclusion of Poster's testimony, that all his testimony be stricken. This motion was denied, and we note parenthetically, properly. But, contrary to defendants' present contentions, this motion was directed to answered questions and had nothing to do with those which were unanswered. While we are not unsympathetic with defendants' feeling that asking the second question after the first had been excluded reveals the true motivation behind the questioning, the court took, with respect to these questions, all the action requested of it. It may well have concluded the defendants felt it better to let the matter pass, hopefully unnoticed, than to make further comment. In the absence of clear prejudice, which we do not find here, it is too late for defendants now to suggest an alternative.

---

[3] Nor do we find the court's error, if any, gross and palpable. On the contrary, defendants' point, based on a refined analysis and criticism of *Hammerschmidt* v. *United States*, 1924, 265 U.S. 182, even if sound, is not necessarily applicable to the charge as we construe it.

Jenkins v. *United States*, 5 Cir., 1958, 251 F.2d 51; see *Webb* v. *United States*, 10 Cir., 1951, 191 F.2d 512, 516; cf. *Green* v. *United States*, D.C. D.-Mass., 1958, 158 F. Supp. 804, 809, *aff'd* 256 F.2d 483, *cert. den.* 358 U.S. 854. *But cf. Pierce* v. *United States*, 6 Cir., 1936, 86 F.2d 949, 952-54. Rather, this is a typical case of "Monday-morning-quarterbacking," *Shino* v. *United States*, 9 Cir., 1953, 209 F.2d 67, 73, *cert. den.* 347 U.S. 937, that the courts have only too frequently been called upon to reject.[4]

We turn to the contentions, differing in detail from defendant to defendant, that the evidence did not warrant findings of guilt. The evidence showed that the corporate defendant Joada was the owner of a 13.82 acre lot in Lowell, Massachusetts acquired from the city in 1956 for $18,000 (allegedly at a bargain rate) and containing an alleged special-purpose factory, then erected, at a cost of some $550,000. The first taking, which was the one involved in the first count of the indictment, reduced one side of the lot by some two acres and materially, it could be found, impeded access to the factory. A staff appraiser of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works initially estimated the damages at $25,000. Under the Commonwealth's procedure it was necessary, because this figure exceeded $2,500, that there be "outside" appraisals (normally two) which, along with the Departmental appraisal and other information, would be submitted through defendant Dole's office to the statutory Board of Review, hereinafter Board.

[4] On the subject of Monday morning we note that on the second Monday of the present term (October 14, 1963) the Supreme Court was called to act upon at least six cases in which defendants had unsuccessfully sought to raise questions for the first time on appeal. *United States* v. *Kahaner*, 2 Cir., 1963, 317 F.2d 459; *United States* v. *Guidarelli*, 2 Cir., 1963, 318 F.2d 523; *Grant* v. *United States*, 5 Cir., 1963, 315 F.2d 395; *Butler* v. *United States*, 8 Cir., 1963, 317 F.2d 249; *Rossetti* v. *United States*, 9 Cir., 1963, 315 F.2d 86; *White* v. *United States*, 9 Cir., 1963, 315 F.2d 113. (Certiorari was denied in each case.)

The Board was then authorized to set the maximum figure for administrative settlement. As associate commissioner in charge of rights of way it was Dole's assigned duty to appoint outside appraisers, and he appointed, as one, defendant Jacobs. Jacobs thereafter submitted a figure of $132,665. This taking was eventually disposed of at the price set by the Board of $120,000. When a year later the second taking, involved in the second count of the indictment, was made, the Department appraiser, one John Riley, made an estimate of $26,350. Dole again appointed Jacobs, who reached a figure of $86,436. He also appointed defendant DeSimone, who submitted $89,600. The Board was dissatisfied with these appraisals and requested another. Dole thereupon appointed one William Riney whose appraisal proved to be $10,000; and thereafter, at the further request of the Board, one Andrew, whose figure was $7,800. The Board thereupon set $20,000 as a maximum, which Reiss refused to accept. Subsequently this indictment was brought.

The government's principal contention is that the defendants conspired to cause the submission of inflated appraisals, Dole participating at least to the extent of actively countenancing and permitting the conspiracy's operation. With respect to the conscious unfairness of Jacob's appraisal there was credible evidence that the consequences of the second taking of less than an acre were relatively slight.[5] The jury was properly instructed, with adequate limitations, that if an appraisal was so "grossly excessive as to indicate bad faith" it could find dishonesty. We have reviewed all of the testimony and exhibits and are satisfied

[5] It is unnecessary to detail the evidence, except to say that the jury could find that there was no present use of the taken parcel for parking; that any such future use was problematical; that land in the vicinity could still be purchased for $2,000 an acre, and that the only other alleged serious effects, the impeding of access to the factory, were essentially caused by the first taking only.

that Jacobs's appraisal could satisfy such a test.[6] The jury could further infer from his unethical attempted contacts with the other appraisers that Jacobs was aware of his own errors. His presently proferred explanation is that, because he "undoubtedly knew" the Board was questioning his appraisal, his conduct only indicates worry lest Riney's report improperly reflect on his professional reputation. But this suggestion, debatable at best, is obviously no answer to his approaches to Riley, whose appraisal was made long before his. We have no problem with respect to the jury finding as to Jacobs' dishonesty.

The next question is whether Jacobs' dishonesty was simply his own, so that there was no conspiracy, or whether others, such as Reiss, were parties to it. We need deal here only with Reiss. We note briefly Reiss' denial to the grand jury that he knew Jacobs before the latter came to Lowell in connection with the first Joada taking, when in fact he had met Jacobs three or four times several months earlier in connection with a taking of land in Lexington in which he also had an interest; his answer as to why when he, his plant manager, and Jacobs were discussing the purchasing of trucks for the plant through Jacobs, he did not tell his manager that Jacobs was currently appraising the company's property for the Commonwealth because "I didn't think of it"[7]; and certain other failures of memory.

---

[6] The defendants attack this issue in one manner that calls for comment. Prior to trial the government had a further appraisal made by one Horn. His final figure of $21,620 was criticized by the defendants, who sought to isolate one of the steps by which it was reached and claim an inconsistency or incongruity. We concede this was a valid jury argument, but we are not prepared to say that as matter of law defendants could insist on segmenting the appraisal, either to reject it entirely, or to make use of a fragment for independent purposes. An appraisal is over-all methodology.

[7] This episode may be noted in passing. Reiss (more exactly, Reiss Associates, Inc.) bought three rebuilt trucks through Jacobs at this time ostensibly upon competitive bids, but concededly Jacobs' bid was not the lowest. It is understandable that Reiss might not tell his plant manager of Jacobs' other connection, but that Reiss did not have it in mind is far less so.

Obviously Jacobs would not be dishonest for Reiss' benefit without some expectation of personal profit. The jury could infer that this expectation was based on a prior understanding and not simply on some hope that Reiss might reward him out of spontaneous gratitude.[8] We cannot say that the finding against Reiss was unwarranted.

We are unable, however, to see any case against Dole. With respect to him the government does no more than list a number of presumptively innocent actions. Unless such actions are in some way related so that they reflect upon each other, an accumulation of nothings is still nothing. Conspiracy cannot be established by mere "inferences no more valid than others equally supported by reason and experience." *United States* v. *Bufalino*, 2 Cir., 1960, 285 F.2d 408, 419. Passing such obvious speciousness as its reliance upon the fact that Dole's appointment had expired and that he was a "holdover," and that he was a "necessary" cog because if he had not appointed Jacobs and DeSimone as appraisers, Jacobs, DeSimone and Reiss could not have conspired, the government points to the fact that Dole caused Jacob's appraiser's fee to be raised, and that Dole visited the property personally in connection with the first taking. However, the evidence shows that it was neither unusual nor improper to raise fees, and there is no suggestion that this particular increase was unreasonable. Similarly, there was no evidence indicating that it was abnormal for Dole, in connection with negotiating a case, to visit the property himself.

Even less defensible is the claim made extensively by the government that Dole's personally negotiating the first

[8] Reiss' ethics may be deduced from a letter to his (then) counsel inquiring whether it would better the condemnation case to park cars on the second parcel in order to "establish conclusively" (contrary to the fact) that it was needed as a parking area. Nor was counsel's reply calculated to effect his moral regeneration.

taking with Reiss was "strange" because its witness Brown testified that he never knew of a case that Dole had personally negotiated "in the eastern half" of Massachusetts. Nowhere does the government advert to the fact that on cross-examination Brown testified that Dole personally negotiated "many" claims in western Massachusetts, and that Brown's authority did not extend to the eastern half of the state and he was in no position to know what Dole did or not do there. The sum total of Brown's testimony was meaningless, except to suggest that the government had asked him a deliberately loaded question amounting to a misrepresentation, had it not later been corrected, that might have fatally infected a conviction. Even if this were not the case, we are constrained to say that it is not only shortsighted, but improper, for the government to argue its witness' direct testimony in disregard of obvious modifications and explanations made on cross.

Nothing of this, singly or collectively, reflects unfavorably upon Dole. Nor does the fact that Jacobs appeared to have inside knowledge of Department activities. There was no indication that Dole was his source.

The district court, in denying Dole's post-trial motions, adverted to other matters.

> "When he appointed Jacobs as a fee appraiser, Dole knew that Jacobs was friendly with Reiss and also knew that in an earlier Joada taking Jacobs had made an appraisal in excess of what the Board of Review of the DPW regarded as a reasonable maximum. From these facts, the jury could have inferred that at least by the time of the second taking, Dole knew that Jacobs would act in a biased way and that Dole knowingly facilitated a conspiracy between Reiss and Jacobs to defraud the United States in connection with . . . [the taking].
>
> "Moreover, Dole had visited the Joada property at

the time of the first taking. From Dole's personal knowledge of the property, the jury reasonably could have inferred that Dole immediately knew that an appraisal of over $80,000 for the second taking was dishonest. Dole's office received and Dole's secretary transmitted the appraisals of Jacobs and DeSimone to the Review Board. The jury reasonably could have inferred that with intent to aid a conspiracy among Reiss, Jacobs, and DeSimone, Dole read the appraisals of his own appointees or with criminal intent deliberately refrained from reading them, and knowing these appraisals to be dishonest, caused them to be transmitted to the Review Board."

We find this, too, unconvincing. The only knowledge Dole was shown to have of Jacobs being "friendly" with Reiss was that Jacobs had presumably met Reiss in connection with his previous appraisal, and had considered the damages to be ten percent higher than the figure finally approved by the Board. If these two facts are sufficient for a finding that Dole could anticipate that Jacobs on the next occasion would act in a "biased," viz., dishonest, way, one may wonder what public official could safely delegate authority to anyone. We do not take such a view of human behavior, nor will we compel others to do so under pain of criminal responsibility. On the government's own evidence Dole had no duty to pass upon appraisals. To conclude under these circumstances that if he failed to look at the second Jacobs appraisal he affirmatively "refrained" "with criminal intent", is neither legally nor factually supportable.[9]

[9] The court's similar conclusion with respect to the DeSimone appraisal is even less understandable for, at least on the record before us and in the court's reference to matters before it, there is no indication that DeSimone had had any contact whatever with Reiss before Dole appointed him to appraise the second taking.

Alternatively if, in the absence of any evidence that Dole saw the appraisal, it could be inferred that in fact he did do so, which in itself we must question, to say that he was then bound to examine it critically, not because he had a normal duty so to do, but simply because, having seen the property the year before in connection with the taking of another, uncontiguous, portion, he should immediately have been struck with the second appraisal's dishonesty, we find equally untenable. If such a conclusion could ever be drawn it would not be here where the appraisal contained no misrepresentation of any physical characteristics of the premises, but only errors of a less conspicuous nature. We note further, as the government concedes, that Dole had dealt with several hundred other properties since he had seen this one. The court correctly charged the jury that carelessness is not dishonesty. In the light of Dole's duties, or, rather, lack of them with respect to appraisals, we could not on this record consider him even careless.

Judgment will be entered remanding the action to the District Court with an order to acquit the defendant Dole; as to all other appellants the judgments will be affirmed.

Appendix B

United States Court of Appeals
For the First Circuit

No. 6097.

WILLIAM M. JACOBS,
DEFENDANT, APPELLANT,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
APPELLEE.

PETITION FOR REHEARING

Appellant, William M. Jacobs, was indicted, together with Fred B. Dole, Ernest Reiss, one DeSimone, who did not appeal, and the Joada Realty Corp. which case stands with defendant Reiss, in a two count indictment for conspiracy to defraud the United States under Code 18 U.S.C.A. 371, in connection with two Massachusetts highway condemnation takings.

On trial of said indictment in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts to a Jury before Judge Wyzanski the said defendants were found not guilty on Count 1 and guilty on Count 2. To the conviction on Count 2, an appeal was taken to this Court, and in an opinion of the Appeal Court of November 1, 1963, it found no legal or factual evidence to support the conviction of the defendant Dole and ordered a remand of the case to the District Court with an order to acquit the defendant

Dole and to affirm the Judgments as to the defendant Jacobs and the other defendants.

To this action of the Court of Appeals, the defendant, William M. Jacobs petitions this Court of Appeals to grant a rehearing for the following reasons: on the trial of the said indictment to the Jury the Trial Judge submitted to the Jury under instructions all the evidence for its consideration as to the existence in fact of a conspiracy and the parties thereto; and the Jury found the defendants Dole, Jacobs, and the others guilty under Count 2; that it is manifest the Jury having found Dole, Jacobs and the others guilty necessarily was influenced by the testimony in evidence as to the participation by Dole in the conspiracy.

The Trial Court by its instructions, permitted the Jury to consider all evidence which the Appeal Court has adjudicated as a matter of law does not constitute a conspiracy between the defendant, Dole and the other defendants. This evidence cannot be segregated so as to say it did not prejudice the defendant, Jacobs; and the Court cannot know the basis on which the Jury arrived at its conclusion. It may very well be that it arrived at its finding on the evidence largely relating to Dole. On such a state of the case there is presented a constitutional question of due process of law relating to a fair trial.

It is submitted that on the record it appears a plain error exists and calls for the application of Rule 52B on the presentation of manifest injustice showing a plain violation of constitutional rights.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS J. MONAHAN,
Attorney for the Appellant,
William M. Jacobs.

hereby certify that this petition for rehearing is filed
ood faith and not intended for delay.

FRANCIS J. MONAHAN,
Attorney for
William M. Jacobs, Appellant

The Petition for a Rehearing of the United States Court of Appeals' opinion of November 1, 1963 printed in Appendix B and the per curiam opinion of the said Appeal Court is printed in Appendix C. hereto.

Appendix C

United States Court of Appeals
For the First Circuit

No. 6095.

ERNEST REISS,

DEFENDANT, APPELLANT,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

APPELLEE;

No. 6096.

JOADA REALTY CORPORATION,

DEFENDANT, APPELLANT,

v.

SAME;

No. 6097.

WILLIAM M. JACOBS,

DEFENDANT, APPELLANT,

v.

SAME.

APPEALS FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Before WOODBURY, *Chief Judge*, and HARTIGAN and ALDRICH, *Circuit Judges*.

Walter Powers, Jr., with whom *Walter Powers* and *Stephen A. Hopkins* were on brief, for appellants in Nos. 6095 and 6096.

Abraham S. Goldstein, with whom *Francis J. Monahan* and *Barbara A. Black* were on brief, for appellant in No. 6097.

Paul A. M. Hunt, Assistant U. S. Attorney, with whom *W. Arthur Garrity, Jr.*, was on brief, for appellee.

OPINION OF THE COURT
On Petitions For Rehearing.
December 3, 1963.

Per Curiam. The only new matter sought to be raised on the appellants' (other than Dolé) petitions for rehearing is the claim that since these defendants were charged with conspiring with Dolé and he is not guilty, they, equally, could not be guilty, or, alternatively, they have been prejudiced. It is elementary that all defendants named as conspirators need not be convicted. Even if a case goes to verdict, the verdict as to one may be set aside without affecting the others. *Glasser* v. *United States*, 1942, 315 U.S. 60; *United States* v. *Socony-Vacuum Oil Co.*, 1940, 310 U.S. 150, 247. In the present case there was ample evidence of a conspiracy between Jacobs and Reiss. We do not agree that "this evidence cannot be segregated." Rather, as is intrinsic in our opinion, it is because it was separable that we ordered Dole's acquittal. While in such a situation Jacobs and Reiss might be entitled to a new trial, this would be only if we thought it reasonably possible that the jury's finding against them had in fact depended upon its belief in elements of the government's "case" against Dole. We have no such thought.

The petitions for rehearing are denied.

Jurisdiction

The Judgment of the Court Below as entered November 1, 1963—Appendix A—and a Judgment, Per Curiam, of said Court was entered December 3, 1963 on a petition for Rehearing—Appendix C—and are contained in the certified copy of record and proceedings filed with this petition. The Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1).

Questions Presented

Is it a violation of the Petitioner's Right of a fair and impartial trial under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the Circuit Court of Appeals of the First Circuit in a criminal conspiracy action to set aside as erroneous the conviction of the defendant Dole—(Appendix A-10) defining the evidence of the facts and the law as to Dole, as insufficient, and as to the other defendants and on the same evidence, supposedly comprehending the existence of a conspiracy, to order Judgments affirming their guilt, (Appendix A-12), when the very evidence of fact which the said Appeal Court says is insufficient in fact and law as to Dole could have been the very evidence utilized by the Jury to find in the first instance the question of the existence of a criminal conspiracy, and secondly the identity of the conspirators, including the person of defendant Dole, whom the Appeal Court finds innocent and as helpful in consideration of this question it is herewith suggested a glimpse be given to the remarks of the Trial Judge in declining to order a new trial for the defendant Dole in connection with a post trial motion (436):

"When he, Dole, appointed Jacobs as a fee appraiser, Dole knew Jacobs was friendly with Reiss and also, in an

earlier Joada Taking. Jacobs had made an appraisal in excess of what the Board of Review of the D.P.W. regarded as reasonable maximum from these facts the Jury could have inferred that, at the time of the Second Taking, Dole know Jacobs would act in a biased way and that Dole knowingly facilitated a conspiracy between Jacobs and Reiss to defraud the United States in connection with the Second Taking of Parcel 3-4 and 3-5. Moreover, Dole had visited the Joada property at the time of the First Taking. From Dole's personal knowledge of the property, the Jury reasonably could have inferred that Dole immediately knew the appraisal of over eighty thousand ($80,000.00) for the Second Taking was dishonest. Dole's office received and Dole's secretary transmitted the appraisals of Jacobs and DeSimone to the Review Board. The Jury could have inferred reasonably that, with intent to aid a conspiracy among Reiss, Jacobs and DeSimone read the appraisals of his own appointees or with criminal intent deliberately refrain from reading them, and knowing these appraisals to be dishonest, caused them to be transmitted to the Review Board." To this statement of the Trial Judge in denying Dole's motion for a new trial, add thereto that part of the charge of the presiding Judge to the Jury at Page 392 of the Record: A conspiracy may be proved by circumstantial evidence. Rarely do conspirators spell out on paper or in specific words a criminal agreement. Men may conspire by nod or a wink. Participation in a criminal conspiracy need not be proved by direct evidence. A common purpose and plan may be inferred from a development or dovetailing of circumstances. As so does it not become clearer and answer itself affirmatively as to whether there is a Violation of the Petitioner's Rights as above queried. Certainly it would seem to the Petitioner that the common man to man idea of Justice would have a ready response and that in the affirmative to the question.

Also, the question is proposed embodying the same question and data in the preceding question, does not the situation call for the application of rule 52 (B) relating to a clear error.

(1) Constitutional Provision Involved

Section One (1) of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads as follows:

> "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State within they reside. (No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States), nor shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

(2) Rule 52(b) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Plain errors, defects of substantial Rights may be noticed although not brought to attention of the Court.

Statement of the Case

The Petitioner, William M. Jacobs, Reiss, Dole, Fonda Realty Corporation (the latter admittedly represented as standing or falling with Reiss (Reiss being a principal officer and stockholder of the said corporation) Stevens and Reiss Associates, Inc. (the latter being found not guilty on a directed verdict on Counts One (1) and Two (2) (400) were indicted on Count One (1) of a two Count indictment (14 to 22 inclusive). Count Two (2) related to

the aforesaid mentioned in Count One (1) excepting Stevens and added one DeSimone (23 to 28 inclusive) said indictment, dated February 5, 1962 alleged a conspiracy to defraud the United States under 18 U.S.C. 371, in connection with the Federal Aid Highway Program, administered in cooperation with the State of Massachusetts by the Bureau of Public Roads of the United States, Department of Commerce, by obstructing its lawful functions through craft, trickery, deceit, and dishonest means preventing thereby a fair, honest, and disinterested valuation of damages sustained by the Joada Realty Corporation, and Reiss Associates, Inc. Each Count charged Dole, an associate commissioner of the Department of Public Works of Massachusetts, and a supervisor of land acquisitions, and who appointed William M. Jacobs, an appraiser, on the subject matter of both Counts, and DeSimone, an appraiser, on the subject matter of the Second Count, with commissioning said appraisers to submit appraisals that would reflect falsely inflated damages.

On trial of said indictment to a Jury before Judge Wyzanski all the defendants were found not guilty in Count One (1), (10) but guilty on Count Two (2), (10).

On appeal to the First Circuit Court of Appeals that Court rendered an opinion, dated November 1, 1963 (Appendix A, infra 10) and in that opinion found no evidence in fact or in law sufficient to hold the defendant, Dole, and ordered Judgment remanding the case to the District Court with an order to enter Judgment of acquittal as to Dole and as to the other defendants the said Court ordered that Judgments be affirmed.

Reasons for Granting Writ

It is clear from an analysis of the question proposed herein that the Jury in this criminal conspiracy case did

not and could not on the basis of the Circuit Court of Appeals For the First Circuit's opinion of November 1, 1963, render a fair and impartial decision such as the Constitution of the United States requires in the Fourteenth Amendment by virtue of the Due Process of Law Clause, either on the vital questions as to the existence of a conspiracy, and, if so, the identity of the conspirators thereto.

Citation Cases

The Petitioner could not locate in any Jurisdiction a case substantially paralleled to the present case.

The case of *Glasser* v. *United States*, 1942, 315 U.S. 60 cited in the First Circuit Court of Appeals' opinion in the denial of petition of Rehearing is not analogous to the present case.

In the said *Glasser* case—a criminal conspiracy case the error therein related to defying the defendant Glasser an effective attorney guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and related exclusively and peculiarly to the individual Glasser so that there was no prejudice to the other defendants by a grant of a new trial to Glasser.

In the case of the *United States* v. *Socony Vacuum Oil Co.*, 1940, 310 U.S. 150, 247 a criminal conspiracy case under the Sherman Act relating to conspiratorial means in fixing prices in inter-state commerce in violation of the Sherman Act in which case a grant of a new trial to some defendants and a denial of a new trial to others, it was held this was not per se reversible error unless clearly prejudicial and a plain abuse of discretion. It was pointed out in the case that the participation of those to whom a new trial was granted was not necessary to the crime charged and that the basic elements and essential elements of the offence and the instructions to the Jury enabled a separateness in

the evidence with respect to the identity of the co-conspirators sufficient to enable the Appellant Court to set aside some defendants and to deny new trial to others. The instant case, it is submitted, is distinguishable.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons this petition for Writ of Certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted.

Francis J. Moxahan
11 Pemberton Sq.
Boston, Mass.
Attorney for Petitioner

LIBRARY

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1963

No. 715

WILLIAM M. JACOBS, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the court of appeals (Pet. App. A) is not yet reported.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the court of appeals was entered on November 1, 1963. A petition for rehearing was denied on December 3, 1963. The petition for a writ of certiorari was filed on December 30, 1963. The

jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. 1254(1).

QUESTION PRESENTED

Whether petitioner's conviction in a conspiracy case should be reversed because the court of appeals reversed the conviction of one of petitioner's co-defendants on the ground that the evidence against the co-defendant was insufficient to link him to the conspiracy.

STATEMENT

Petitioner and others were convicted by a jury in the United States District Court for Massachusetts on the second count of a two count indictment charging a conspiracy to defraud the United States in connection with the administration of the Federal Road Aid Act. The gravamen of the offense was an agreement to submit inflated appraisals to the Massachusetts Department of Public Works which had taken portions of certain property owned by one of the defendants in connection with designated federal-state highway projects. Petitioner received a one-year jail sentence and a $5,000 fine.

The record shows that in 1958 and again in 1960 the Massachusetts Department of Public Works acquired two separate portions of a 13.82 acre lot in Lowell, Massachusetts owned by Joada Realty Corporation which was controlled by co-defendant Reiss. The takings were for highway projects which were partially financed by the United States. In each instance, the Department's staff appraisers estimated

Joada's loss from the taking at greater than $2,500. Pursuant to the governing statute, the Department was therefore required to obtain independent appraisals of Joada's damages. Fred B. Dole, an associate commissioner of the Department in charge of land acquisitions, chose petitioner to serve as one of the independent appraisers in connection with both takings. As to the second taking, which is the only one here involved, petitioner submitted an estimate of more than $86,000 and DeSimone, the other appraiser appointed by Dole, an appraisal of over $89,000. It is not now disputed, as the court below held, that the jury could find that the appraisals were so grossly excessive as to justify a finding that they were knowingly dishonest.

The court of appeals sustained the convictions of Joada Realty, Reiss and petitioner; but reversed Dole's conviction on the ground that the evidence was insufficient to prove that he had any part in the conspiracy or had acted carelessly in connection with the submission of the inflated appraisals by his appointees (Pet. App. A).[1]

In a petition for rehearing, petitioner alleged that the evidence as to Dole "cannot be segregated so as to say it did not prejudice the defendant, Jacobs; and the Court cannot know the basis on which the Jury arrived at its conclusion. It may very well be that it arrived at its finding on the evidence largely relating to Dole." (Pet. App. B). The court denied

[1] De Simone did not appeal.

the petition for rehearing in a *per curiam* opinion (Pet. App. C).

ARGUMENT

Petitioner argues in this Court, as he did in the petition for rehearing below, that the reversal as to Dole requires reversal of his conviction. There is no merit to this contention. The core of the conspiracy was the agreement among petitioner, De Simone and Reiss to submit grossly inflated estimates of the value of the property taken from Reiss's company. The question as to Dole was whether he knowingly sought to further that conspiracy by appointing a man who he knew would submit excessive appraisals on Reiss's behalf and by passing along appraisals which he knew to be excessive (see the opinion of the district court summarizing the evidence as to Dole (R. 436)). The ruling of the court of appeals that the evidence did not show such knowing participation by Dole does not detract from the independent evidence which proved the underlying conspiracy among petitioner, De Simone and Reiss. This is clearly not a case in which the participation of the defendant against whom the judgment of conviction has been reversed is necessary to establish the crime charged. *United States* v. *Socony-Vacuum Oil Co.*, 310 U.S. 150, 243-248. The evidence against petitioner has been fully evaluated and there is no occasion for further review.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated, it is respectfully submitted that the petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

ARCHIBALD COX,
Solicitor General.

HERBERT J. MILLER, JR.,
Assistant Attorney General.

BEATRICE ROSENBERG,
DAVID N. ELLENHORN,
Attorneys.

JANUARY 1961.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1961 71864